GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3821
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2008
BRIDGING OF DIGITAL DIVIDE
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether bridging the digital divide was a powerful tool to bridge the gender divide as it was found that villagers preferred women to head the knowledge centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) to (c): Bridging the digital divide would lead to overall development in rural areas. It is expected that development on account of the bridging of the digital divide would also help in bridging the gender divide. While some Common Service Centres /Knowledge Centres in rural areas are manned by women, the Department of Information Technology is not aware of any study which indicates that villagers prefer women to head these knowledge centres.